

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

American Medical Association, St. Louis, Missouri, May 15 to 19, 1939. Olin West, M.D., Secretary, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

California Medical Association, Hotel Del Monte, May 1 to 4, 1939. George H. Kress, M.D., Secretary, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

Medical Broadcasts*

Los Angeles County Medical Association

The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of December is as follows:

Thursday, December 1—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, December 3—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, December 8—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, December 10—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, December 15—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, December 17—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, December 22—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, December 24—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, December 29—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, December 31—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Truisms: From the Pen of the Late Joseph P. Widney, Founder of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.—Boake Carter, feature writer for the Hearst newspapers, on November 17 printed excerpts from the works of the late Joseph P. Widney, whose death, at the age of 97, occurred during the current year. Biographical and other sketches of Doctor Widney have appeared in *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*.† The following comments by Boake Carter are of interest:

"Here is a platform, composed of a number of planks for the preservation of popular government. The truths that must be learned are these:

'That labor is a blessing, the greatest ever given to man, and not a curse.

'That the right to labor and to become a producer is the birthright of every human being, a right not to be questioned or denied.

'The idle man, whether behind prison walls or on a strike or subsisting on inherited wealth, is fed in his idleness by someone's toil. That there is no such thing as the bread of idleness; it is the bread of industry, only eaten by idleness, and that community is the poorer for every mouthful thus eaten.

'That artificially hampered or restricted production reacts inevitably and disastrously upon the producer whether

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

† Issues of April, 1936, page 292; August, 1938, page 161.

he be employer or employee, the working of the natural law of supply and demand being the only safe and healthful guide.

'That there is no mysterious power in the state. It is only the people—aggregated; not an entity in itself.

'That the state is no wiser than the individual members who compose it.

'That law cannot create wealth; only regulate it.

'That capital is only a credit mark for labor done, and which has not been consumed; labor only unaccumulated capital and which if not consumed may become capital.

'That labor and capital mutually supplement each other, and that to each a higher grade of living is possible because of the other.

'That while an honest day's labor is entitled to the honest dollar, equally true is it that the honest dollar is entitled to the honest day's labor.

'That an injustice to one is a wrong to all.

'That when a community permits violence, it is sapping the foundations of its own safety. License paves the way for despotism; and the demagogue is only the forerunner of the dictator.

'That every dollar's worth of property destroyed by riot is so much of the world's stored-up labor blotted out, and the rioter himself, as a member of the community, is that much poorer.

'That the man who promotes class jealousies is an enemy to all, and to himself as well; and that the labor union demagogue is the same pestilent creature, and in the end just as harmful to the causes he espouses as is the political demagogue.

'That no man and no class is permanently lifted up by pulling another down. The ties of the world-life are too closely interwoven for this.

"The above truisms were written in 1907. They fit perfectly the picture of 1938. I found them when desiring to learn something about the term 'Aryan,' about which Hitler has tub-thumped so much. They are contained in 'Race Life of the Aryan People,' of the Old World and New World, two volumes by Joseph Widney. He was a medical officer in the United States Army. He wrote them twenty-five years before anyone ever heard of a man named Hitler! They are not only fascinating, but uncanny."—*Los Angeles Examiner*, November 17, 1938.

American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology: Examinations.—The next written examination and review of case histories for Group B candidates will be held in various cities of the United States and Canada on Saturday, February 4, 1939, at 2 p. m. Application for admission to this examination must be filed on an official application form in the office of the secretary at least sixty days prior to this date (or before December 4, 1938).

The general oral, clinical and pathological examinations for all candidates (Groups A and B) will be conducted by the entire Board, meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on May 15 and 16, 1939, immediately prior to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association. Application for admission to Group A examinations must be on file in the secretary's office by March 15, 1939.

For further information and application blanks, address Dr. Paul Titus, Secretary, 1015 Highland Building, Pittsburgh (6), Pennsylvania.

Scientific Exhibit: American Medical Association.—Application blanks are now available for space in the Scientific Exhibit at the St. Louis session of the American Medical Association, May 15-19, 1939. Attention is called to the fact that the meeting is a month earlier than usual, and applications close on January 5, 1939. Blanks will be sent on request to the Director, Scientific Exhibit, American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Mechanical Heart Will Beat for San Francisco Fair Visitors.—The ceaseless motion of the heart—from the cradle to the grave, at the rate of seventy beats to the minute—will be dramatically demonstrated to millions of visitors to the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition on San Francisco Bay. The display will be part of the exhibit of the Ciba Pharmaceutical exhibit in the Hall of Science.

Over two billion heart beats—the equivalent of seventy beats per minute over a 65-year period—will be indicated on a three dimensional model heart which stands five feet high in the center of the exhibit. Lights flashing over other models will trace the course of the blood flow, the movements of the valves. Supplementary drawings and animated models will explain:

How the heart pushes forward one gallon of blood per minute when a person is in a resting position; three gallons when standing, and thirty gallons when running.

How the arteries and veins contract and expand, how the pulse is created, and how valves function in stopping back-flow.

How the blood stream provides food to the cells, removes waste matter.

How the red blood cells supply oxygen to the body, and how the white cells provide protection against invading bacteria; how blood platelets act in the formation of clots, shown on a model enlarged 10,000 times.

How the heart itself is supplied by blood to enable it to carry on its pumping functions.

The danger of inflammation will be emphasized, showing how efficiency of the heart is reduced. Popular misconceptions of high blood pressure, too, will be outlined and explained along with heart disease, its prevention and treatments for relief.

Doctors' Bills.—Recognizing the fairly widespread tendency on the part of the public to regard doctor bills as obligations that can wait indefinitely or at least until after all other bills have been paid, California Bank, Los Angeles, during the week of October 31 to November 5, inaugurated "Pay Your Doctor Week," with three-column six-inch ads in local metropolitan daily newspapers and reprints of the ad in approximately 35,000 month-end checking account statements calling attention to the dedicated week and to the bank's personal loan plan for paying doctor and other bills.

To each of the five thousand doctors and dentists practicing in the communities served by the institution's fifty-four offices, California Bank sent an explanatory letter printed on the reverse side of a reprint of the ad along with a folder describing the bank's personal loan plan.

Quoting from the letter:

"'Pay Your Doctor Week' is designed to help you turn your accounts receivable into cash and to provide your patients with a convenient, low rate, installment method of paying their bills. . . . We shall appreciate having an expression of your opinion and any suggestions you care to offer concerning 'Pay Your Doctor Week.' . . . Your opinion, as part of a consensus of the medical and dental fraternity, will assist us in determining whether or not 'Pay Your Doctor Week' should be repeated. Please address any communication you care to make to California Bank (Room 1207), 625 South Spring Street, Los Angeles."

Los Angeles Clinical and Pathological Society.—The dinner meeting held on Wednesday evening, November 16, at 6:30 o'clock, in the California Club, was in honor of charter members and in commemoration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Society.

Dr. George Herrmann, Professor of Medicine, University of Texas, was the guest speaker, and discussed "The Clinical Nature of Heart Failure."

Southern California Medical Association.—The ninety-ninth semi-annual meeting was held on October 28 and 29, with headquarters in the Los Angeles County Medical Association, 1925 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles. The program follows:

Friday Afternoon Session:

Notes on the Early and Late Treatment of Wounds by William S. Kiskadden of Los Angeles, with discussion by James B. Johnson and John D. Gillis, both of Los Angeles.

Symposium on heart disease, with case reports, as follows:

An Unusual Circulatory Accident by Lewis T. Bullock of Los Angeles, with discussion by Robert W. Langley of Los Angeles.

Subacute Bacterial Endocarditis Simulating Syphilis by George H. Houck of Los Angeles, with discussion by Willard J. Stone of Pasadena.

Myocardial Damage Following Administration of Emetin by A. M. Roberts of Los Angeles, with discussion by Franklin R. Nuzum of Santa Barbara.

Paroxysmal Tachycardia by William P. Corr of Riverside, with discussion by Arthur M. Hoffman of Los Angeles.

Epilepsy: The Diagnosis, Cerebral Localization and Treatment by William T. Grant of Los Angeles, with discussion by M. A. Glaser and Leo J. Adelstein, both of Los Angeles.

Friday Evening Session:

Modern Concepts of Mental Hygiene by Lloyd H. Ziegler, Associate Medical Director of Milwaukee Sanitarium, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Saturday Morning Session:

Mucocoele of the Appendix by James C. Doyle of Los Angeles, with discussion by Harlan Shoemaker and Shuler F. Fagan, both of Los Angeles.

Reactions Following Blood Transfusions by Milo K. Tedstrom of Santa Ana, with discussion by Roy W. Hamack of Los Angeles and Alvin G. Foord of Pasadena.

The Treatment of Milder Psychiatric Disorders at Home by Lloyd H. Ziegler of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, with discussion by Glenn E. Myers of Compton and William Edler of Pasadena.

The Hemorrhagic Tendency in Patients with Jaundice by Edward W. Boland of Los Angeles, with discussion by C. J. Berne of Los Angeles and P. A. Gray of Santa Barbara.

Saturday Afternoon Session:

The Value of Splenectomy by Donald C. Collins of Los Angeles, with discussion by V. C. Hunt of Los Angeles and Leo J. Madsen of Santa Monica.

Symposium on Pulmonary Tuberculosis, with case reports, as follows:

Closed Intrapleural Pneumonolysis by John C. Jones of Los Angeles, with discussion by Edwin S. Bennett of Olive View.

Extrapleural Pneumothorax by Marvin S. Harris of Los Angeles, with discussion by Frank S. Dolley of Los Angeles.

Pneumoperitoneum by E. E. Noble of Los Angeles, with discussion by Edward W. Hayes of Monrovia.

Pneumothorax by R. H. Sundberg of San Diego, with discussion by Carl R. Howson of Los Angeles.

The Disturbed Physiology in Bronchial Asthma: Its Therapeutic Implications by Hyman Miller of Los Angeles, with discussion by Charles C. Coghlan, J. Dwight Davis, and Robert W. Lamson, all of Los Angeles.

Officers for 1938 are: William H. Barrow of San Diego, president; Alvin G. Foord of Pasadena, first vice-president; William P. Corr of Riverside, second vice-president; John B. Doyle of Los Angeles, secretary-treasurer.

Councilors are: Frank R. Nuzum, Santa Barbara; Robert W. Langley, Los Angeles; Merrill W. Hollingsworth, Santa Ana; William H. Barrow, ex officio; and John B. Doyle, ex officio.

Board of Governors includes: F. M. Pottenger of Los Angeles; Egerton L. Crispin of Los Angeles, Joseph M. King of Los Angeles, Joseph K. Swindt of Pomona, Charles T. Sturgeon of Los Angeles, Paul E. Simonds of Riverside, Raymond G. Taylor of Los Angeles, Fred B. Clarke of Long Beach, Carl R. Howson of Los Angeles, Bon O. Adams of Riverside, and H. Douglas Eaton of Los Angeles.

Subject: Legal Status of Physicians under the Workmen's Compensation Act of California.—An item and brief on this important subject appears in the advertising section of this issue, commencing on advertising page 26.

University of California Medical School.—The University of California Medical School will offer a course on "The Treatment of Fractures" from December 14 to 16. Through the courtesy of Dr. J. C. Geiger, Director of Public Health, this will be given at the San Francisco Hospital. The course, which will be short and comprehensive, has been designed to meet the needs of physicians engaged in private practice. Through clinical presentations, detailed outlines of treatment and demonstrations, every effort will be made to make the course applicable to the problems encountered in practice. Upon request, the dean's office, University of California Medical School, Medical Center, San Francisco, will be glad to supply more detailed information.

Second Federal Institution for Drug Addicts.—The United States Public Health Service Hospital for drug addicts at Fort Worth, Texas—second such institution in the country—was formally dedicated on October 28.

Passed Assistant Surgeon William F. Ossenfort was assigned to duty as medical officer in charge of the hospital in April of this year. Since that time, with the aid of a skeleton staff, he has been actively engaged in equipping and preparing the hospital for patients.

Built at a cost of approximately \$4,000,000, the institution covers 1,400 acres. It includes an administration building, a clinical ward building, a maximum custody ward, personnel residences, and maintenance structures. A prolonged treatment building for the more advanced cases of addiction will be ready in 1939. About three hundred beds already have been set up for patients scheduled to occupy the new quarters beginning the week following dedication.

Comparable in function with the original hospital at Lexington, Kentucky, the new unit differs somewhat in design and arrangement. Structurally, it has less emphasis placed on the custodial features. Artificial barriers such as bars, high gates, and walls, and the enclosed court feature are less pronounced.

Composition of Neutron Ray.—The neutron ray, now claiming wide attention as a therapeutic agent, particularly in the treatment of malignant growths on animal tissues, is described in nontechnical language by Dr. Luis W. Alvarez, research fellow in physics in the Radiation Laboratory of the University of California. The comparative effects of neutron and x-ray radiation are now being studied by the University with the hope of developing the neutron ray as an important adjunct to the other types of radiation.

The ray is produced by the University's cyclotron or "atom-smashing" machine. The apparatus is usually adjusted to produce eight million volt hydrogen atoms, and these are, in turn, directed at some substance, for example, iron. Some of the iron atoms are transmitted into new elements, either cobalt or manganese, while other iron atoms are changed into a new form of iron which has many of the properties of radium. This new form of the metal is known as radio-active iron.

Similarly, if the atomic bullets are directed at any other substance, they will cause transmutations to occur, and, in many of the cases, radio-active products will be formed.

When the high-speed atom collides with the atom of the "target substance," the latter explodes and flies into two parts. One of these parts is the atom of the new element, for example, cobalt, manganese or radio-active iron, and the other is a light atom, such as hydrogen or helium. More

often than either of these two, it is a new particle known as a neutron.

The neutron was discovered in 1932, and is an electrically neutral body of about the same weight as the hydrogen atom. The fact that it carries no electrical charge enables it to penetrate far into the interior of large bodies of matter where ordinary radiation, such as light, x-rays or radium cannot go. It is the ray caused by the neutron discharge from the cyclotron which appears to have increased the lethal power of radiation on the tumor masses in animal experimentation.

Mississippi Valley Medical Society 1939 Essay Award.—The Mississippi Valley Medical Society offers a cash prize of \$100, a gold medal and a certificate of award for the best unpublished essay on a subject of interest and practical value to the general practitioner of medicine. Entrants must be members of the American Medical Association. All contributions *must not* exceed 5,000 words, be typewritten in English in manuscript form, submitted in five copies, and must be received *not* later than May 1, 1939. Further details may be secured from Harold Swanberg, M.D., Secretary, Mississippi Valley Medical Society, 209-224 W. C. U. Building, Quincy, Illinois.

Another Near Miracle Credited to "Iron Lung."—A man named Drinker and a few alley cats have been given credit by the University of California Hospital for granting a new lease of life under almost miraculous conditions to a seventeen-year-old Chico boy. Some weeks ago, while in the last stages of meningitis, complicated by a spinal abscess, the boy was rushed by automobile from his home to the University of California Hospital in San Francisco. Upon arrival he had fallen into a deep stupor, a complete paralysis from the arms down had set in and death seemed but minutes away.

Frankly informing his parents that the case seemed hopeless, the physicians had the boy placed in an improved mechanical respirator and, after two weeks, he had so improved that he could be taken from the respirator. The abscess was drained, relieving him in part of the paralytic condition. While he is not yet out of danger the physicians in charge give him a good chance for recovery.

The boy is David Burnell Van Dyke of 406 Cherry Street, Chico. He became ill over a month ago, and despite heroic local treatment, he sank rapidly. The trip to San Francisco in the family car was decided upon as a last desperate expedient, the parents being in straitened circumstances and unable to afford an ambulance for the long trip. Doctors and technicians at the University Hospital unanimously agreed that the case was one of the most hopeless ever brought to their attention, the ravages of the two quick-acting and often fatal diseases being aggravated by the ordeal of the long journey from home.

The attending physicians pass most of the praise on to Doctor Drinker, dean of the school of public health of Harvard University, who devised the respirator, or iron lung as it is called, tried it out in its crude form on the cats, which had become afflicted with a severe respiratory disease, and found that it worked in a manner little short of miraculous. Experiments on human cases proved equally effective.—*University of California Clip Sheet.*

Fatal Dog Disease Reported Checked by University of California Foundation.—An endemic of Weil's disease or "yellows," a fatal disease of dogs, which has claimed the lives of hundreds of canines throughout the state and endangered many human beings as well in the past two years, has been definitely checked, it is announced by the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research of the University of California. So severe had the depredations of the disease on the dogs of San Francisco become that a veterinarian of

the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals appealed to the Foundation for aid. The Society reported 80 to 90 per cent mortality among the dogs attacked. To this plea were added those of a number of veterinarians in Stockton and elsewhere.

Recently two human cases of the disease were contracted in California, presumably through the handling of dogs. Both were veterinarians, one in San Francisco and the other in Stockton. Both passed through a long and serious course of illness before recovery. Numerous other cases of human attack were reported, one fatal, but the infection could not be directly traced to dogs.

The nature of the disease was established in the laboratories of the Hooper Foundation, where it was determined that a spirochete, technically called the *Leptospira*, was the causative factor. Simultaneous studies had established that the disease or one of its close relatives had been prevalent in Holland at one time, and had been checked by a certain serum developed there. Quantities of this serum were obtained and this, together with serum obtained from convalescent dogs, was used for the California outbreaks. The latest reports state that the treatment has been generally successful.

The serum is obtainable at the Hooper Foundation at the present time, where it may be obtained by all qualified veterinarians. It is hoped to have it placed on the market within the next few months.

Warning has been sent the veterinarians of the state to watch not only for the infection in dogs but for human infection as well, and to report all cases at once to the Hooper Foundation.

Symposium on Mental Health.—The Section on Medical Sciences of the American Association for the Advancement of Science announces a Symposium on Mental Health to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the association at Richmond, Virginia, from December 28 to 30, 1938, and cordially invites the attendance and participation of all interested persons.

A Coöperative Project

Collaborating in the plans for the event are the American Psychiatric Association (an affiliated body of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the United States Public Health Service, the Mental Hospital Survey Committee (composed of representatives of eight national medical bodies), the National Committee for Mental Hygiene and a special committee of eminent psychiatrists who are developing the program for the symposium under the chairmanship of Dr. Walter L. Treadway, formerly assistant surgeon general of the Public Health Service.

Purpose of the Symposium

The symposium will provide an unusual opportunity to bring the great problem of mental health before the forum of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and, through it, to the scientific and lay public of America. It will be the tenth in the series of symposia held by the Section on Medical Sciences since 1934 and the first to deal with this important subject. All who have a serious interest in the subject will be welcome—scientists and laymen, professional workers and others—for the mental hygiene movement is a *public movement*, including among its adherents representatives from all walks of life and courting the good-will and support of all in its far-reaching aims and activities.

Its object will be, essentially, to present a synthesis of existing knowledge of the mental health problem, to evaluate past experience, crystallize aims and objectives and to marshal the scientific forces of the nation for a concerted, coordinated and more effective attack on mental disorders and disease. By drawing on the various scientific disciplines, within and without the field of mental hygiene, that are in a position to contribute new knowledge, we hope to

light up the problem as never before and to arrive at a new and better orientation in dealing with it on its practical as well as theoretic side.*

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press, on matters related to medical practice, follow:

Absentee Vote Boosts Eaton Lead on Scott†

Mayor Thomas M. Eaton, Republican of Long Beach, in the lead over Democratic Congressman Byron N. Scott in the Eighteenth District race, today forged still further ahead when in the counting of absentee ballots he received 105 additional votes to 94 tallied for Scott. The count is expected to be completed late today.

In the standing before the race entered the final swing of the counting of the absentee ballots today, Eaton led the incumbent by 106 votes, having polled in the election a total of 51,732 against Scott's 51,626. In the count today six votes were recorded for Solomon Carr, Progressive from Bellflower.

The ballots are being rapidly canvassed and will be completed late today if the present speed is maintained, according to Deputy County Counsels Beach Vasey and Curtis Smith, who are on hand to pass on any legal questions that may arise during the official tally.

Congressman Scott, with his observers, is attending the count while Eaton is represented by Attorney John F. McCarthy.

Scott supporters said there was strong possibility that the absentee ballots might win for Scott because most of them are from Navy or Marine Corps men, and Scott is an active member of the House naval affairs committee. Eaton's supporters, however, were confident he would retain his lead.

Democratic observers, led by Scott, were making no challenges. But the Republicans challenged 110 ballots on grounds of improper addressing. Most of these were from CCC and SRA camps, and from Washington, D. C.

Vasey ruled that an absentee ballot cannot be counted after it is challenged unless the party who marked it is present to defend it.

The ballot, however, may later be counted by the courts in the event the contest is carried there for determination.

A total of 765 absentee ballots are being tabulated out of a total of 964 returned. Approximately 199 have been challenged and rejected for failure of voters to comply with absentee ballot law requirements.—Los Angeles *Herald*, November 16.

* * *

Long Beach City Election Interests Congressman Scott†

Representative Byron N. Scott in a radio speech last night made the double announcement that the congressional fight in this district is not ended and that the campaign for Long Beach's municipal election next year is starting. He charged that the challenging of absentee voters' ballots in the November 8 election, in which he, the Democratic incumbent and candidate for reelection, was defeated, on the face of semi-official returns, by Mayor Thomas M. Eaton, Republican, had disfranchised Democratic voters entitled to vote. . . .

Eaton Holds Lead

With the count of absentee ballots, Mayor Eaton had a lead of 288 votes over Representative Scott in the November 8 election. His plurality, with absentee ballots excluded from consideration, was 106. Of the absentee ballots, eighty-two were challenged, sixty-nine by Eaton observers and thirteen by Scott supporters; 122 ballots were rejected by the tabulating officials for improper execution.

Had Scott received all of the challenged votes and all of those rejected by election officials, Eaton still would have had a plurality on the basis of the semi-official count, it has been pointed out.

The official canvass of November 8 votes now is being made by the Board of Supervisors. Probably the incumbent's move for a recount of the Eighteenth Congressional District vote will be made after completion of the official canvass.

* Correspondence in relation to the symposium should be addressed to the Administrative Office, Symposium on Mental Health, A. A. A. S., Room 822, 50 West Fifth Street, New York City, Paul O. Komora, Administrative Secretary.

† This item is of interest because it was Congressman Scott who, in the last session of Congress, introduced the bill to investigate the American Medical Association (CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, May, 1938, page 306).

Later reports of the absentee vote showed Mayor Eaton to have been elected by several hundred votes.